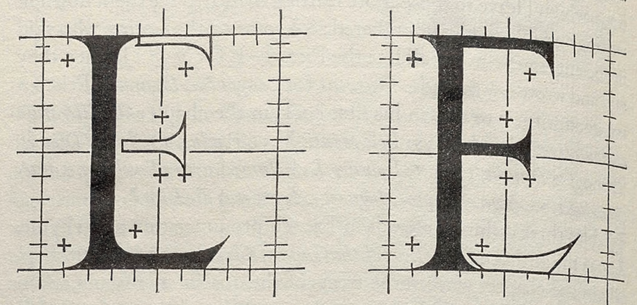
E When properly designed & written, contains within itself F & L. If you would make an F from the E, take away the horizontal stroke below, and you will have the F all made. If you would make an L, take from the E the two upper strokes, and the L will be left as it should be, in its natural likeness. You will be able to learn this by practising it, & by making use of the compass and the rule, as is required of those who love useful knowledge. However, to make your labour easier, I have made a drawing of them here, to the end that you may be the better able to understand my words to be true, as I have written them down.



When Virgil says in his *Priapeia*:—

> Є Ↄ, si iungas, temonemque insuper addas,
> Qui medium D, vult scindere pictus erit,[45]

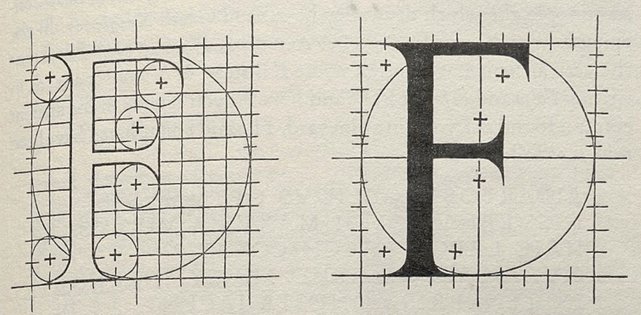
he does not mean, according to his conceit, and according to his words and purpose, that E should be made from the I, as I have said & taught, but something very different, as I well know; and yet I shall forbear to say what it is, because the thing intended is obscene—letting it be known to those who know it, & to be imagined or contemned by those who do not care to know it. I have chosen to say a word thereon, in passing, because it seems that Virgil means to teach how to make and write the E and the D, when he says, Є Ↄ *si iungas,* but does not do it; but do not you pause upon it.

OBserve in passing that the greater number of French words contain the vowel E much more often than any other vowel or letter, as is made plain in writing or reading books in the French language.

E With the aspirate H before it, may be a sign & interjection of some emotion, & this as well in Latin as in French. Priscian is a witness thereof for the Latin, when he says in treating *De Interiectione* at the end of his fifth* book: *Inter has ponunt etiam sonituum illiteratorum imitationes; Vt risus, Haha, hehe, et Phi, Hæ, et hoe, et hau.*

For examples in French, I refer the zealous student to Master Pierre Patelin[46] and other good French authors.

*An error for fifteenth. The reference is XV, VII, 41.



THE letter F, here drawn, made from the I and derived from the E, is exactly six units in breadth, & must have six centres in order to be made properly, as I have indicated by marking them in the places where they should be. I have written justly in several passages of this book that every Attic letter should be wider at the top than at the bottom;† but some one may say that the F, P, T, V, & Ypsilon contradict my conclusion. To which I reply that my statements are well founded, it being borne in mind & understood that these said letters F, P, T, V, and Y are not in themselves primary letters, but are taken from other letters, as F from E, P from B, T from the aspirate H, V from the Greek letter Lambda inverted, & Y from X, as you will see if it be your pleasure to try your hand at them. F is called the Æolic Digamma in the first book of Priscian,‡ in many places, because it is made from two Gammas, a Greek letter, placed one above the other, thus: ⊦. Digamma means two Gammas, or twice Gamma. Gamma in Greek is the letter for & in the stead of which we & the Latins use the letter G; but there

†'*Plus large en chef qu'en pied.*' *The context makes it clear that he has said here just the opposite of what he meant to say.*

‡ I, IV, 20.

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